

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Beutler, with the language that remains in the bill right now even with Senator Wickersham's amendment, one of the factors that would have to be considered is that another state is competing against Nebraska for this business, whether it is one currently in the state or one that Nebraska is trying to draw to the state. Would you agree? There has to be that interstate competition factor.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I would agree to the extent that the opening paragraph of Section 4 says that the intent is to remain competitive with other states. However, I think the bill is somewhat lax in its latter provisions in that it doesn't set forth that fact as a criteria when it comes time to give out the grants and loans and I will seek to remedy that through another amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, when you say you would bring an amendment, your purpose would be to make it even more sure and certain that a requirement is that there be that interstate competitiveness for this particular business seeking the loan or grant?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, however you vote on this amendment is all right with me, but what we're going to have to do is get some direction with reference to this bill. Either it's going to be the broad, wide open type of affair which my amendment would cause it to be and if you adopted my amendment that is what would happen. It would mean that it is not essential that a business in order to qualify for a loan or grant, if it meets the other criteria established, it would not be necessary to show that there is interstate competition for that business. Without my amendment that has to happen. So if you have a small business in a rural community and no other state is trying to pull it away, that business cannot qualify for one of these loans with the existing language because there is not the interstate competition for that business. It seems to me that Senator Vrtiska and people who feel like he does would favor my amendment. My amendment removes an impediment to small businesses receiving a loan. If the business is truly small, it's unrealistic to say that some